

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-15 as follows.

1. (Amended) Blade crusher, comprising means which combines a crushing action with a double shearing action in two orthogonal spatial planes.
2. (Amended) Crusher according to Claim 1, wherein the orthogonal planes are vertical and horizontal planes.
3. (Amended) Crusher according to Claim 1, wherein the means which combines a crushing action with a double shearing action in two orthogonal planes comprises at least two successive pairs of movable toothed blades forming jaws, each pair consisting of two opposite corresponding toothed blades driven in a reciprocating motion moving them apart and bringing them together so as to abut against one another when the teeth engage in one another, at least part of the teeth of the blades possessing a face oriented perpendicularly to the plane of the reciprocating motion of the blades, and the second pair of blades sliding against the first pair of blades so as to come into abutment in a position offset with respect to the abutment position of the first pair of toothed blades.
4. (Amended) Crusher according to Claim 2, wherein the blades constituting the pairs of blades are in a vertical position and have teeth possessing, at least in part, horizontal surfaces oriented respectively upwards and downwards, so that the double shearing action is due to a

vertical shearing action produced by the crossing of the successive blades sliding against one another, combined with a horizontal shearing action produced by the crossing of the faces of the teeth oriented respectively upwards and downwards, sliding against one another.

5. (Amended) Crusher according to Claim 4, wherein the blades extend upwards by way of upper zones, which are likewise toothed, but which do not engage in one another, adopting in contrast a V-shaped geometric position forming a hopper when the toothed blades are engaged in one another in the lower abutment zone.

6. (Amended) Crusher according to Claim 4, wherein, in the abutment zone, the toothed blades constituting the pairs are oblique.

7. (Amended) Crusher according to Claim 4, wherein, in the abutment zone, the toothed blades constituting the pairs possess a curved, for example S-shaped, profile.

8. (Amended) Crusher according to Claim 1, wherein fixed blades are interposed between the movable blades.

9. (Amended) Crusher according to Claim 4, which comprises in the lower part a cutout forming a free space in which the teeth of the opposite blade do not come into abutment.

10. (Amended) Crusher according to Claim 4, which comprises in the lower part and at the extremity another cutout which cooperates with a nose or nib projecting concordantly on the opposite blade.

11. (Amended) Crusher according to Claim 1, wherein the blades are brought together and moved apart on a linear path situated in the same plane, or in two planes forming between them an obtuse angle other than 180° , the converging motion in this case being oblique.

12. (Amended) Crusher according to Claim 1, wherein the blades are brought together and moved apart on a curvilinear or arcuate path.

13. (Amended) Crusher according to Claim 1, which is in modular form, it being possible to add pairs of toothed blades alongside existing blades to increase the crushing capacity, or remove them to reduce the capacity, weight and space taken up.

14. (Amended) Multi-stage crushing assembly, comprising a plurality of crushers according to Claim 1 installed in series, wherein the crushed material obtained by one crusher feeds the following crusher of the series.

15. (Amended) Medical waste-sterilising installation, which comprises, as a unit placed upstream of a microwave sterilising apparatus, a crusher according to Claim 1 or a crushing assembly according to Claim 14.

Please add new claims 16-18 as follows.

16. (New) Crusher according to claim 5 wherein, in the abutment zone, the toothed blades constituting the pairs are oblique.

17. (New) Crusher according to claim 5, wherein, in the abutment zone, the toothed blades constituting the pairs possess a curved, for example S-shaped, profile.

Serial Number: Not Yet Assigned
(National Stage of PCT/IB99/01945)

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

18 18. (New) Crusher according to claim 6, wherein, in the abutment zone, the toothed blades constituting the pairs possess a curved, for example S-shaped, profile.

09856489-091201